WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In-Residence COURSE SYLLABUS

FR101 (J-TERM/2015)

❖ COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: FR101 – Retreat for Christian Formation
Number of Credits: .75 (first half of the retreat is on financial literacy: "Money and Me")
Prerequisites: None

❖ COURSE DESCRIPTION

The subject of personal finances makes some people's eyes glaze over. You may ask, "What does my money have to do with my future ministry?" The truth is, no matter how grounded we may be in spiritual disciplines and other practices, mistakes with money can undermine a lot of good. Debt in particular is a form of spiritual and physical oppression. In this 4-day (mornings only) class, you will learn the fundamentals of good money management from Brian Cannon, CPA and Personal Financial Specialist at Ronald Blue & Co.

❖ INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Brian Cannon, CPA, Personal Financial Specialist
Email: brian.cannon@ronblue.com
Phone: 616.392.3108

Instructor's Assistants: Carla Capotosto, Associate Director of Communications and the Lilly Economic Challenges Grant, with occasional assists by John Brogan, Stephanie Croom and/or Beth Smith

	Brian Cannon is a Financial Advisor in Ronald Blue & Co.'s Holland, Michigan office and joined the firm in 2007. Prior to joining Ronald Blue and Co., Brian spent six years as the Director of Finance and Operations at Park Community Church in Chicago. During that time he led the Good Sense Ministry, teaching, training, and counseling others about Biblical stewardship. Brian also has work experience as an accounting manager at the CNA Financial Insurance Company in Chicago and as an auditor with KPMG LLP in Detroit. Brian received his BBA in Accounting from the University of Michigan and his MBA in Finance from DePaul University in Chicago. He serves on the University of Michigan Club of Holland as Treasurer. He and his wife, Chris, live in Holland, Michigan with their two children and are active at Providence Church.

❖ LEARNING OUTCOMES

After this course, the student can be expected to:

1. Understand personal net worth;
2. Become more knowledgeable about the dangers of debt;
3. Recognize that long-term goals can only be achieved through cash-flow margin;
4. Identify and articulate why we are called to give.

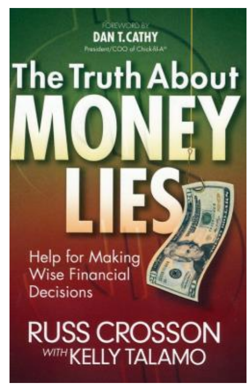
❖ COURSE MATERIALS

All materials for the class are paid for through the generosity of Lilly Endowment, Inc., and its grant to improve the economic well-being of future pastors. Western Theological Seminary is one of 67 seminaries participating in this grant as we seek to reduce the amount of student debt and increase financial literacy among future leaders in ministry.

You will receive a workbook binder from:

Ronald Blue & Co.®
Wisdom for Wealth. For Life.

And this book:



❖ COURSE OVERVIEW

Since this course will be designed and presented by an outside facilitator, we are not sure, at this publication, what the 4 half-days will look like. We do, however, have a sense of the topics to be covered:

- Attitudes about Money
- Financial Decisions and my Net Worth
- Goal Setting
- Cash Flow, Budgeting
- Debt
- Saving & Investing
- Helping Others with your Resources
- Stewardship & Simplicity

Attendance and participation in this course are required to receive half the credit for FR101.

❖ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Disabilities:

If you have a physical, sensory, psychological, or learning disability that might require accommodations in this course, contact the Academic Office at the beginning of the semester at pat.dykhuis@westernsem.edu regarding the seminary's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating differing abilities.

Writing Studio:

The Writing Studio is an academic support service to all Western Theological Seminary students. The studio offers 45 minute tutorial sessions focused on a writing sample provided by the student. By working with a tutor in this fashion the student is more readily able to identify how to improve her/his writing skills, not only for the document at hand, but for the future as well. Even the best writers can find ways to improve their craft. Appointments are conducted in the Writing Studio located on the mezzanine-level of Beardsley Library for IR students and available via online conferencing for DL students. In order to schedule an appointment, students should visit the Writing Studio module in the Academic and Community Information Course in Canvas. This is a free service offered through Student Support Services.

Student Workload (per WTS Handbook Standard):

Each credit hour stands for 42 hours of work (14 hours of class plus 28 hours of work outside of class) for an average WTS student.

While some learners may spend more time reading in one of the course texts than in another, or devote more time to one writing assignment than another, overall, students should be able to accomplish the course assignments within the allotted time frame. Other kinds of work, particularly in the biblical languages, are more difficult to quantify, and the amount of time required by different students may vary substantially.

Please see the full policy in the Seminary *Handbook 2014-2015*.

Program Assessment:

Western Theological Seminary is committed to student learning and formation. In order to assess the effectiveness of the M.Div. degree program at Western Theological Seminary, faculty has been asked to help gather artifacts which can be used for this purpose. This course will provide a drop box for gathering student assignments from which samples can be randomly drawn for the assessment process. Student identities will be removed from those samples in order to preserve anonymity and ensure confidentiality.